

**A New Species in the Genus *Alasagenia* Banks  
(Hymenoptera: Psammocharidae) with  
a Key to the Species of North  
America**

By R. R. DREISBACH, Midland, Michigan

Banks erected the genus *Alasagenia* to include those species in the Subfamily Auplopodinae which had a distinct petiole, a beard of long hairs under the head on mentum, last joint of mid and rear tarsi bare of spines beneath and on sides, venation very similar to the other genera, with the basal vein in fore wings basad of the transverse median and the subdiscoidal vein in rear wings ending before the origination of the cubitus; and the posterior tibiae with a row of distinct spines above and with a row of short bristles on each side.

The genotype is a species from British Guiana, but at the time of the description of the genotype Banks stated that there were other species from the United States that went in the same genus that had been described in *Priocnemis*, but that differed from that genus by virtue of the petiolate abdomen.

These species are *A. reynoldsi* (Banks), *A. fulgifrons* (Cresson), *A. incitus* (Banks) and the new species described also belongs here.

At the present time there are no photomicrographs of the genitalia of any of the males available, but when they do become available they will be published.

***Alasagenia rubineus* n. sp.**

*Holotype* female: Head, thorax, and legs black, with the abdomen completely red; the head, thorax and legs covered with short, glistening, finely appressed whitish hair, the abdomen just as completely covered with similar hair but due to the red color does not show up as prominently as on the head and thorax; the head when seen from in front appears to be longer than wide, but actually the width and length are of the same dimensions; inner orbits parallel; the ocellar triangle stands out very slightly above the otherwise flat vertex; clypeus truncate in front and slight reddish on front edge; when seen from the side

the clypeus is slightly raised above the face at base but almost flat from there to tip; the clypeus and face much more closely covered by the glistening white hair than any other part of body; when seen from the side, the nearer ocellus is just visible above the vertex of eye, about one third of the front just back of antennae is raised above the surface of eye; the posterior orbits widest opposite the insertion of the antennae, and there about equal to the eye in width, and narrowing very considerably from there to vertex; fore ocellus slightly more than its diameter from the laterals and these about two thirds as far apart as their distance to eyes; antennae inserted about the lower third of eye, about one third the length of basal joint of antennae from clypeus; head very finely punctured with a slightly granular appearance; a few long hairs on vertex, with quite a few more on clypeus and under clypeus; mandibles slightly reddish at tip; basal antennal joint three times as long as second, but only three fourths as long as third, which is subequal in length to fourth, succeeding joints about the length of third except the last two which are only about two thirds as long; whole antennae covered with stiff short brownish hair, and is very slender; a very prominent beard of hairs under head on mentum which are curved slightly forward; a fairly long flat pronotum which is transverse behind and appears slightly granular; the propodeum slopes in a smooth curve from base to tip; second abdominal ventral segment with a very evident transverse groove; wings almost hyaline but slightly smoky, much more so beyond cells; marginal slightly shorter than its distance to wing tip; third cubital cell about one third longer on cubitus than the second, but the second cubital cell is one third longer on the marginal vein than the third cell; first recurrent vein is received by the second cubital cell at about the middle, while the second recurrent vein joins the third cubital cell slightly beyond the middle. Basal vein in fore wings slightly basad of the transverse, and with a rather deep bend forward just before it meets the cubital vein; the cubitus vein in rear wings arises exceptionally far beyond the subdiscoidal; no spines on femora, fore tibiae with four small spines on under side and about 8-10 at tip; the last two pair of tibiae well spined

on outer side and on the dorsal surface, with two or three small ones near tip on under side; very small and short spines on tarsi, smaller and fewer on the first joint, and these becoming larger and more numerous from first pair of legs to last pair; the fourth tarsal joint of the first two pair of legs shorter than the fifth joint without the claw, but this joint in rear legs as long as fifth joint; a fairly large tooth about middle of claw; legs long and slender; longer spur of posterior tibiae about three eighths as long as its metatarsal joint; there are no spines on sides or under the last joint of posterior tarsi.

Size: Head and thorax 3.7 mm., abdomen 3.0 mm., fore wing 8.60 mm., rear wing 3.85 mm.

*Holotype* female: Washington, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VIII-5-1949, Richard Boettcher. (Collection of David Shap-  
piro.) Will be deposited at Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

This species is nearest to *A. reynoldsi* Banks, but differs in a number of characters as given in the following key. It seems strange that new species should turn up in sections as well covered by collectors as Washington, D. C., as I have two more new species from there.

*Key to the Females of the Genus Alasagenia Banks*

1. Body entirely red or yellowish, with the wings light yellow with the tip blackish. . . . . *reynoldsi* (Banks)
1. Whole body not red, at least some black on head or thorax. . . . . 2
2. Abdomen entirely red, head and thorax black; face and thorax with appressed, glistening whitish hair; pronotum hardly angulate, propodeum not striate on the sides, but slightly granular. . . . . *rubineus* n. sp.
2. Abdomen black or bluish. . . . . 3
3. Face, below the antennae, with dense, appressed, golden pubescence; long hair on pronotum and on front of fore coxae, white; spurs white or whitish. . . . . *fulgifrons* (Cresson)
3. Face without the dense, golden, appressed pubescence; long hairs on front dark, but body silvery, sericeous; third joint of antennae much longer than the fourth; anterior ocellus nearly twice its diameter from the laterals; first recurrent vein received by the second cubital cell beyond the middle, second recurrent vein slightly sinuate and meeting the third cubital cell at middle; spurs dark. . . . . *incitus* (Banks)

Genus **ALASAGENIA** Banks

*Alasagenia* Banks, Zoologica, N. Y. Zool. Soc., XXIX, 1944, p. 106. Genotype: *A. erichsoni* Banks. (British Guiana)

*Alasagenia* Dreisbach, Mich. Acad. Sci. Arts and Letters, XXXIII, 1949, p. 65. (key)

**Alasagenia fulgifrons** (Cresson)

*Pompilus* (*Priconemis*) *fulgifrons* Cresson, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., I, 1867, p. 114. Female (o.d. W. Va., Amer. Ent. Soc.)

*Priocnemis fulgifrons* Cresson, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 2, 1887, p. 272. Female (Cat. W. Va.)

*Cryptocheilus fulgifrons* Banks, Jr. N. Y. Ent. Soc., XIX, 1911, p. 235. (key)

*Priocnemis fulgifrons* Banks, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., LXI, 1917, p. 101. (part desc.)

*Priocnemis fulgifrons* Brimley, Jr. Elish. Mitch. Soc., 52, 1936, p. 117. Female (N. C. key)

*Priocnemis fulgifrons* Brimley, Insects of N. C., 1938, p. 432. (N. C.)

This species is very easily distinguished by virtue of its beautiful golden pubescence.

**Alasagenia incitus** (Banks)

*Cryptocheilus incitus* Banks, Jr. N. Y. Ent. Soc., XIX, 1911, p. 234. Female (o.d. Texas. key. Birkman coll.)

*Priocnemis incitus* Brimley, Insects of N. C., 1938, p. 432. (N. C.)

This species has the body silvery sericeous, and is entirely black.

**Alasagenia reynoldsi** (Banks)

*Priocnemis reynoldsi* Banks, Psyche, XL, 1933, p. 12. Female (o.d. Colo. MCZ.)

This insect as noted in the key is entirely red or yellowish all over and has no black markings, which easily distinguishes it.

All these species have the characters as given in the description of the genus, including the beard of long hair on the mentum.